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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State

INFO : UNCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE,
SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: February 17, 1968

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: Feb. 9-15, 1968

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

FEB 21 1968

1. Nothing happened this week that was likely to set the general public on edge. In the government's opinion, however, conditions did not warrant lifting the State of Alert imposed on January 16. The President, with his Cabinet's approval, decided to prolong the emergency measure thirty days more, starting February 15. Congress failed, for extrinsic reasons, to ratify the pertinent decree at its February 15 session but was expected to do so within a few days.

2. The most disturbing incidents of the week were the murders of a National Policeman in Coatepeque, Quezaltenango, and a minor PR official from Iztapa, Escuintla. Both may or may not be attributable to leftist terrorists. There were eight other killings but none appeared to be politically motivated. A student, a brewery worker and a restaurateur, once a minor Ydigoras-regime functionary, were reportedly kidnapped in the capital; that ideology had something to do with all three incidents may only be supposed.

MEIN

Encl.:

List of incidents

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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Guatemala A-305
Enclosure 1

- Feb. 9 Body of National Policeman with 47 bullet wounds found in Coatepeque, Quezaltenango.
- 9 Vicente Girón Quiñónez, brewery worker, kidnapped from home in Zone 2, capital, by 30 men claiming to be Judicial Police; disappears.
- 10 Unidentified carful of men kidnap commercial student, José Armando Salguero Valenzuela in Zone 5, capital, get away. Motive unknown.
- 10 Beaten body of José Isidro Ramírez found in Zone 15, capital. No motive suggested.
- 10 Two campesinos murdered in Nueva Concepcion, Escuintla. Unsolved.
- 11 House of Chimaltenango's Congressional deputy, Jorge Girón Galindo, set afire in Tecpán. Perpetrators get away.
- 12 PR Secretary General in Iztapa, Escuintla, Alfonso Ortega Sarceño, found tortured to death near Palencia, Dept. of Guatemala. Victim was reported kidnapped last week.
- 12 Military policeman murders chief of military reserves in Salamá, Baja Verapaz. Office, not national, politics behind incident.
- 14 Capital restaurateur, Julio Arango, a minor official in Ydigoras days, beaten by 5 unidentified men as he leaves his establishment; driven away. Motive unknown.
- 14 Storekeeper in finca El Coyol, Oratorio, Santa Rosa, shot and later dies. Perpetrators, several men in National Police uniforms, also stole Q260.
- 15 In same El Coyol, assistant mayor of nearby village and 2 other men attacked farmer's house with firearms; occupants returned fire. Both assailants, Manuel Orellana Garcia and farm owner, Santos del Cid Vega, as well as 2 others, ^{die} Origins unknown.

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